

RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

similar recognition for Armenia. The delay in Armenia's case was caused by the still unsettled delimitation of her boundaries. When the Sevres Treaty was dictated to the Ottoman government, on August 10, 1920, it provided for the creation of Greater Armenia, which would comprise, in addition to the original Russian area, the former Turkish vilayets of Trebi/ond, Erzerum, Van, and Bitlis.

Armenia was not destined, however, to enjoy these Turkish fruits of international diplomacy; nor were the other two Transcaucasian states to enjoy the blessings of peace in independence. The execution of the Sevres provisions concerning Armenia was frustrated by the expansion of militant Turkish nationalism under Mustafa Kemal. By October, 1920, Kemal's armies had reconquered all districts of Turkish Armenia and were ready to invade even Transcaucasia.

The external help expected by the Armenians was not forthcoming:

the American Senate had just rejected the proposal to accept Armenia as a United States mandate, and the last of the British forces had been evacuated from Transcaucasia in July of 1920.

The evacuation of British troops had begun early in 1920. It was caused by the British cabinet's decision to cease active intervention in behalf of counterrevolutionary forces in Russia. British contingents had been withdrawn from Russia proper late in 1919, and the evacuation of troops from Transcaucasia was the next logical step. This, in turn, presented an opportunity to Soviet Russia, who in the meantime had made clear her disapproval of the separation of Transcaucasia. In the eyes of the Soviet leaders the Transcaucasian nationalists were guilty on two counts: first, they were

Mensheviks,
and hence "petty bourgeois," reactionary and
counterrevolutionary;
secondly, they had taken advantage of the help
proffered them by the
British (or formerly German) imperialists. The hostile
attitude of the
Soviet government toward the republics did not
prevent it from
formally recognizing the independence of Georgia
and concluding
a treaty with that state on May 8, 1920. The
consequent establish-
ment of the Soviet Embassy in Tiflis was, however, a
maneuver to in-
filtrate Georgia with Bolshevik agents to foster
revolutionary move-
ments. Similar processes of infiltration took place in
Azerbaijan and
Armenia.